

1. A method for analyzing a spoken sequence of numbers recognized by automatic speech recognition, comprising:

determining a speaking pause length between two consecutive numbers; and

5 deciding whether or not the two consecutive numbers belong to a single numerical value on the basis of the determined speaking pause length.

10 2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising defining a pause length threshold and deciding whether or not the two consecutive numbers belong to a single numerical value by comparing the determined speaking pause length with the pause length threshold.

15 3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the pause length threshold is initially set to an empirical value.

20 4. The method according to claim 2, wherein the pause length threshold is user-adjustable.

25 5. The method according to claim 2, wherein the pause length threshold is automatically adjusted dependent on a user's speaking habit or dependent on appropriate training data.

30 6. The method according to claim 2, wherein the pause length threshold is shifted on the basis of one or more previously determined speaking pause lengths.

7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising determining one or more further prosodic parameters apart from the speaking pause length and deciding whether or not the two

consecutive numbers belong to a single numerical value based also on the one or more determined further prosodic parameters.

5           8.    The method according to claim 7, further comprising defining one or more prosodic parameter thresholds and deciding whether or not the two consecutive numbers belong to a single numerical value also by comparing the one or more determined prosodic parameters with the one or more prosodic parameter thresholds.

10           9.    The method according to claim 7, wherein the one or more prosodic parameter thresholds are initially set to empirical values.

15           10.   The method according to claim 7, wherein the one or more prosodic parameter thresholds are user-adjustable.

20           11.   The method according to claim 7, wherein the one or more prosodic parameter thresholds are automatically adjusted dependent on a user's speaking habit or dependent on appropriate training data.

25           12.   The method according to claim 7, wherein the one or more prosodic parameter thresholds are shifted on the basis of one or more previously determined further prosodic parameters.

30           13.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the speaking pause length is determined by measuring a silence interval between two consecutive numbers.

14. The method according to claim 1, further comprising obtaining an end point of a first of the two consecutive numbers and a starting point of a second of the two consecutive numbers during automatic speech recognition and  
5 determining the speaking pause length based on the end point and the starting point.

15. The method according to claim 1, further comprising recognizing a connecting word within the spoken sequence of numbers.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein, upon recognition of a connecting word, the decision whether or not two consecutive numbers belong to a single numerical value is based on a pause length threshold which is specific for the  
15 recognition of a connecting word.

17. A method for analyzing a spoken sequence of numbers, comprising:

20 recognizing the spoken sequence of numbers by automatic speech recognition;

determining a speaking pause length between two consecutively recognized numbers; and

25 deciding that the two consecutively recognized numbers belong to different numerical values if the determined speaking pause length exceeds a pause length threshold.

18. A method for analyzing a spoken sequence of numbers, comprising:

30 recognizing the spoken sequence of numbers by automatic speech recognition;

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determining a speaking pause length between two consecutively recognized numbers and determining at least one further prosodic parameter apart from the speaking pause length; and

5       deciding whether or not the two consecutively recognized numbers belong to a single numerical value based on both the determined speaking pause length and the at least one determined further prosodic parameter.

10       19. A device for analyzing a spoken sequence of numbers comprising:

an automatic speech recognizer;

a prosodic unit for determining a speaking pause length between two consecutive numbers; and

15       a processing unit for deciding whether or not the two consecutive numbers belong to a single numerical value on the basis of the determined speaking pause length.

20       20. The device according to claim 19, wherein the prosodic unit determines one or more further prosodic parameters apart from the speaking pause length and wherein the processing unit decides whether or not the two consecutive numbers belong to a single numerical value based also on the one or more further prosodic parameters.

25       21. The device according to claim 19, wherein the automatic speech recognizer is configured to recognize a connecting word between the two consecutive numbers.